BLM

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0017-EA
RIGHT-OF-WAY UTU-90712
Moon Lake Electric Overhead Distribution Powerline for Newfield's Boundary Injection Facility

PREPARING OFFICE

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Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0017-EA

RIGHT-OF-WAY UTU-90712

Moon Lake Electric Overhead Distribution Powerline for Newfield's Boundary Injection Facility

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Salt Lake Meridian

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Finding of No Significant Impact

DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0017–EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts (per Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0017–EA, I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Signatures:

Approved by:

	/s/ Jerry Kenczka	12/17/2014
	Jerry Kenczka Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals	Date

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DECISION RECORD

Decision

It is my decision to approve and authorize Moon Lake Electric Associations application for Right-of-Way UTU-90712, proposal to install a new overhead 14.2/24.5kV distribution power line, to serve Newfield Production Company's Boundary Injection Facility, and to proceed as set out in the Proposed Action of the Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015–0017–EA) subject to the applicant committed measures, stipulations, compliance and monitoring. This alternative is hereafter called the Selected Alternative. This decision applies to BLM-administered lands only.

I have determined that authorizing this selected alternative is in the public interest, and will minimize impacts so that no undue disturbance will occur.

The overhead distribution power line will be constructed on Public Lands within the following legal description: SLM, UT T. *8S., R. 16 E., Sec. 25, NENE. T 8 S., R. 17 E., Sec. 29, N1/2N1/2, Sec. 30, Lot 1, 2, 3, N1/2NE1/4.*

The approximate length of the power line is 12,030.81 feet, with a permanent 50 foot width, encompassing approximately 13.809 acres more or less.

An additional temporary construction width of 50 feet, the full length of the new power line, approximately 13.809 acres is requested for approximately 30 days (1 month). Total disturbance for the project is approximately 27.618 acres. The temporary construction area (13.809 acres) will be reclaimed following the construction of the overhead power line.

Compliance, Monitoring, Stipulations

Compliance and monitoring checks will be conducted in accordance with BLM Regulations.

STIPULATIONS

Cultural:

No surface disturbance will occur within ¼ mile East of the Pariette Road without a qualified Archaeological Monitor present. MLEA is requesting to use BLM's Archeologist to monitor the pole construction and the line installation in this area.

MLEA will contact the BLM Archeologist 48 hours before construction begins (in the sensitive area) with the construction dates for monitoring. This identified area will have restricted work areas. The overhead power line is to be hand pulled, with no vehicle traffic through the site, to reduce further potential impacts.

MLEA crews will construct the two (2) power poles in the sensitive area using a digger truck w/auger to dig the hole & if needed a backhoe to dig the holes. Both the digger truck & backhoe will use the existing road to the south of the sensitive area as an access road. MLEA crews will also lift the conductor wires onto the newly constructed poles instead of dragging the wire across the ground so there will be the least amount of ground disturbance in the sensitive area.

Soils: Moon Lake shall reclaim the area disturbed according to Green River District Reclamation Guidelines. This involves at a minimum re-contouring any disturbed area back to original

contours, salvaging of topsoil to be used for restoration efforts, seed bed prep work, use of soil amendments, seeding with an approved seed mix emphasizing the use of native plants. Seed mix for the area should work within a Desert Shallow loam environment and be able to work within a low average precipitation area. Invasive and Noxious weed control shall also be accomplished by Moon Lake to keep these invasives from inundating the proposed project area and to increase the chance for reclamation success. The overall goal is to obtain 75% basal based on similar undisturbed adjacent native vegetative community, and comprised of desired species and/or seeded species within 5 years of initial reclamation action as stated in the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines.

Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors) Project activities are not allowed from March 1 – August 31 to minimize impacts during burrowing owl nesting season. This stipulation applies to the entire project area.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

The proposed action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM Land Use Plan and the associated decision(s):

The selected alternative has been reviewed, and found to be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 31, 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows for processing applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, leases on public lands in accordance with policy and guidance and allows for management of public lands to support goals and objectives of other resources programs, respond to public requests for land use authorizations, and acquire administrative and public access where necessary (RMP/ROD p. 86).

It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

The selected alternative is also consistent with the Duchesne County General Plan, as amended in 2012. The project area is located entirely within the Uintah Basin Energy Zone in Duchesne County, which was established for the purpose of maximizing efficient and responsible development of energy and mineral resources. The highest management priority for all lands within the Uintah Basin Energy Zone, as identified in the Duchesne County Plan, is responsible management and development of existing energy and mineral resources in order to provide long-term domestic energy and supplies for Utah and the United States.

Compliance with NEPA:

This EA was prepared by the BLM in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and the U.S. Department of Interior requirements and guidelines listed in the BLM Manual Handbook H-1790-1. This EA assesses the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

Rationale / Authorities / Public Involvement

The decision to authorize the 14.2 / 24.kV overhead distribution power line to serve Newfield Production Companies Boundary Injection Facility, has been made in consideration of the

environmental impacts of the proposed action. This decision has been made after considering impacts to resources within the Vernal Field Office while accommodating Moon Lake Electric Associations desire to construct the power line.

Identification of issue(s) for this assessment was accomplished by considering any resources that could be affected by implementation of one of the alternatives.

Issues identified by BLM Specialists are documented in Appendix A Interdisciplinary Team Checklist.

Alternatives Considered

Alternative A-Proposed Action

Moon Lake Electric Association proposes to install a new overhead 14.2/24.5kV distribution power line, to serve Newfield Production Companies Boundary Injection Facility.

Alternative B: NO ACTION

Under the No Action alternative, BLM would not approve the ROW grant. Moon Lake Electric would not be allowed to construct and install the over head power line to serve Newfields Boundary Injection Facility on public land. The no action alternative effectively constitutes denial of the Proposed Action. This alternative was not selected because it would not respond to the applicant's need to install the power line.

The authority for this decision is pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761).

The proposed action was posted to the public BLM E-Planning website with its assigned NEPA number on October 16, 2014. To date, no questions or comments have been received. A public comment period was not offered due to the proposed action being similar in nature to other projects in the immediate area.

Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

Protest/Appeal Language: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

(1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,

(2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,

(3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and

(4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorizing Official:

/s/ Jerry Kenczka	12/17/2014
Jerry Kenczka	Date
Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals	

Chapter 1. Environmental Assessment Introduction

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This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of Moon Lake Electric Associations proposal to install an overhead distribution (14.4/24.5kV) power line, for service to Newfield Production Companies Boundary Injection Facility on private land. The power line is approximately 12,030.81 feet in length with a 50 foot permanent width, approximately 13.809 acres more or less.

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. An EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any "significant" impacts could result from the analyzed actions. "Significance" is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI). A FONSI is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in "significant" environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (VFORMP), October 2008. If the decision maker determines that this project has "significant" impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

1.1. Identifying Information:

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0017–EA

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 8 S., R. 16, 17 E., Sections 25,29,30.

For a map of the project area refer to Exhibit B.

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office - Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East

Vernal Utah 84078

1.1.4. Identify the lease, serial, or case file number:

Case File numbe:r UTU-90712

1.1.5. Applicant Name:

Moon Lake Electric Association

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

The BLM's need is to consider approval of the application for Moon Lake Electric Associations request to construct the overhead 14.4/24.5kV distribution power line for service to Newfield Production Companies Boundary Injection Facility on private land, in accordance with Title V of the Federal land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended through September 1999, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761). BLM's purpose is to avoid or reduce impacts on sensitive resource values associated with the project area and prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

During preparation of the EA, public involvement consisted of posting the proposal on the e-planning NEPA website. No public comment or inquiries were received. The proposed action was reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. For a list of all resources considered, refer to Appendix A. The other ROW holders in the proposed project area is Newfield Production Company, so notice letters to other right-of-way holders were not mailed.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

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2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

This EA focuses on the Proposed Action, as well as, the No Action Alternative. No unresolved conflicts were identified that required the consideration of another alternative.

PROPOSED ACTION

Purpose and Need for the Facility

Moon Lake Electric Association (MLEA) proposes to construct a new overhead power line on BLM. The proposed power line will be constructed to serve the needs of Newfield Production Company's Boundary Injection Facility. This proposed power line will be a distribution line, with an operating voltage of 14.4/24.5 kV. Guy Wires would be installed as per the attached spec sheets.

Right-of-Way Location

The proposed power line will be built in the following legal description:

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 8 S., R. 16 E.,

sec. 25, NE¼NE¼.

T. 8 S., R. 17 E.,

sec. 29, N½N½;

sec. 30, Lot 1,2,3, N½NE¼.

The total length of the power line will be approximately 12,030.81 feet, a 50-foot wide permanent easement, and a 50 foot wide temporary construction easement are being requested. The 50–foot wide temporary construction is needed to accommodate the equipment necessary in order to construct the power line. This proposed right of way will encompass approximately 13.809 Acres.

The total disturbance for the proposed project is 27.618 acres more or less.

Facility Design Factors

This power line will meet the National Electrical Safety Code. All requirements with respect to clearance, temperature fluctuations, wind, voltage, span length, and structure heights are incorporated into all MLEA power line designs. All MLEA power lines are designed with adequate clearances for Raptor protection. All materials used for MLEA power lines meets, or exceed industry standards.

Additional Components

This area of the county is in MLEA service territory. MLEA owns and maintains thousands of miles of power lines throughout its service territory. These lines are on Private, State, BLM, and Tribal Lands. Additional power lines may be required in the future.

Government Agencies Involved

The BLM is the only government entity with property involved in this power line extension.

Construction of Facilities

Construction will begin within 45 days of BLM approval and will take 20 to 30 days to complete. We anticipate placing 39 poles and 23 anchors on BLM.

The poles extend 35 to 40 feet out of the ground.

The construction crew will consist of 4 men to 8 men using bucket trucks, digger trucks, and smaller crew trucks, as well as a backhoe. Right of Way flagging or engineering crews will consist of 1 to 4 men using a pickup truck(s), as well as foot travel.

It is anticipated that minimal clearing, grading or blade work will be needed for crews to access and construct this power line within the granted right-of-way; with exception of the holes drilled for pole and anchor installation. Construction travel will be confined to existing roads and the requested right-of-way.

Safety is very important to MLEA. Any holes which may need to be left open overnight, will be covered with planks to protect people and wildlife from injury.

No toxic substances are used in the construction of any MLEA power lines. All construction waste will be hauled back and disposed of in MLEA owned dumpsters.

Name and Telephone Number of Contact Personnel

The appropriate person to contact about the proposed right-of-way is Mary Stewart, Right-of-Way Agent for MLEA. She can be reached at 435.722.5418 Work or 435.823.5962 Cell or mastewart@mleainc.com.

Resource Values and Environmental Concerns

No surface disturbance will occur within ¼ mile East of the Pariette Road without a qualified Archaeological Monitor present. MLEA is requesting to use BLM's Archeologist to monitor the pole construction and the line installation in this area.

MLEA will contact the BLM Archeologist 48 hours before construction begins (in the sensitive area) with the construction dates for monitoring. This identified area will have restricted work areas. The overhead power line is to be hand pulled, with no vehicle traffic through the site, to reduce further potential impacts.

MLEA crews will construct the two (2) power poles in the sensitive area using a digger truck w/auger to dig the hole & if needed a backhoe to dig the holes. Both the digger truck & backhoe will use the existing road to the south of the sensitive area as an access road. MLEA crews will also lift the conductor wires onto the newly constructed poles instead of dragging the wire across the ground so there will be the least amount of ground disturbance in the sensitive area.

All surface disturbances will be kept to a minimum and confined to the right-of-way. Rubber tired vehicles will be used for all construction.

It is anticipated that MLEA's surface disturbance will be minimal. MLEA's surface disturbances usually are nothing more than a two track, which is periodically to maintain and patrol the power line as needed. MLEA will keep all vehicle travel to existing roads and within the granted right-of-way.

The visual impacts will be minimal. Wood poles and non-reflective conductors will be used in the construction of this project. Vegetation for this project consists mainly of sage brush, cactus, desert plants.

Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Wet Soil Conditions

Construction and Maintenance activities will not be performed when soil conditions are too wet to adequately support vehicles and equipment, except in emergency situations. If equipment creates ruts, in excess of three (3) inches deep, all maintenance work will be postponed, if possible, until conditions are suitable for travel. If maintenance is required for immediate repair of the power line, MLEA will be responsible for the rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

Weed Control

MLEA will control any noxious weeds that appear in their right-of-way, as a result of MLEA's construction activities. All weed control will be done upon written request from the BLM office. Any weed control that is required, will be completed according to the BLM specified methodology. If Herbicides are to be used, MLEA will submit, in a timely manner, a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP)), according to the form. The PUP form shall be sent to MLEA, upon the request from the BLM, for any weed control.

Access

All access will be from existing roads and two tracks and along the granted rights-of-way.

Reclamation Re-seeding

MLEA will re-seed any area's that are cleared as a result of MLEA construction activities.

All re-seeding efforts will BLM's Green River Districts March 2009 Reclamation Guidelines. MLEA will use BLM standard drilling or broadcasting techniques for any and all re-seeding. Re-seeding techniques will be determined at the time of the BLM's request for any and all reseeding.

MLEA will apply the BLM's recommendation of certified seed, at their application rates, for any re-seeding that is needed for this project. Any and all re-seeding will be done between August 15th and November 30th.

Maintenance

MLEA will keep the power lines in a safe and usable condition at all times in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code.

No toxic substances are used in the construction of any of MLEA power lines. All construction waste will be hauled back and disposed of in MLEA owned dumpsters.

It is anticipated that this power line will be inspected on a semi-annual basis, with maintenance to be completed as needed. All inspections will be completed from MLEA owned vehicles and completed by authorized MLEA personnel.

MLEA will do everything within reason and within its power to prevent fires on or near the construction area during the construction of this power line, as well as throughout the term of the right-of-way. Each vehicle used on the job site will be equipped with a radio and fire extinguisher. All litter will be taken off the job site.

Termination and Restoration

If the use of the power line is discontinued for a period of one year or longer and is no longer needed in the foreseeable future; MLEA will remove it at their expense and will restore the right-of-way, as much as possible to its original condition.

2.2. No Action Alternative

Under this action, BLM would not approve the amendment application for the overhead 14.4/24.9 kV distribution power line to serve Newfield's Boundary Injection Fence on private land.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

There were no other alternatives identified aside from the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives that would meet the purpose and need of this project.

2.4. Conformance With BLM Land Use Plan

The proposed action would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows ROWs on public lands in accordance with the Realty Decisions. It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with any decisions throughout the plan.

2.5. Relationships To Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans

This EA was prepared by the BLM in accordance with NEPA of 1969 and in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including the President’s Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and U.S. Department of Interior requirements and guidelines, as listed in the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1.

The proposed project is consistent with the Duchesne County Public Land Use Plan (Duchesne County Plan as amended (April 16, 2012) which encompasses the project area. The county's plan contains specific policy statements addressing public lands (i.e. multiple-use, resource use and development, access, and wildlife management). In general, the county's plan indicate support for development proposals, such as the Proposed Action, through its emphasis of multiple-use of public land management practices, responsible use, and optimum utilization of public land resources. The county, through its plan, supports the development of natural resources as they become available or as new technology allows.

Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

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This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area as identified in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist found in Appendix A. This chapter provides the baseline for comparison of impacts/consequences described in Chapter 4.

3.1. Soils & Vegetation

Soils

The Project Area is located on soils that are shallow desert loam to shallow desert sandy loams with slight alkaline properties. These soils according to the NRCS soil survey information on similar mapped soils are typically very shallow to shallow, weakly to moderately developed, and well drained (NRCS, 2014). According to NRCS data these soils are typically light reddish brown at the surface to dark reddish brown. Soils generally have low wind and water erosion potential due to abundant rock fragments that protect the surface soils. Soil surface fragments can range from 25-75%. The soil temperature and moisture regimes are mesic and typic aridic respectively. Surface and subsurface textures are generally loamy sands, channery loams, or gravelly sandy loams. Soils are moderately saline and the water holding capacity is low. Biological crust cover is characterized as a weak crust, with light cyanobacteria and/or isolated moss clumps with no continuity (NRCS, 2014). A typical soil profile would be:

A – 0-2 inches; channery/gravelly loamy sand; strongly calcareous; moderately alkaline C – 2-9 inches; channery/gravelly fine sandy loam; strongly calcareous; moderately alkaline 2R – 9+ inches; sedimentary parent material

Parent materials: Kind: Residuum, Alluvium, Colluvium

Origin: Surface Texture: (1) gravely Fine Sandy Loam, (2) Loamy sand, (3) Gravelly Sandy loam

Subsurface texture group: Sandy

Vegetation

Mixed Desert Shrub

Mixed desert shrub communities are generally characterized by open-canopied shrublands that are common in basins, plains, and on alluvial deposits of floodplains, alluvial fans, and pediment slopes. This community typically is found on medium- to fine-textured alkaline soils with saline and calcareous substrates. Dominant shrub species typically include shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Gardner's saltbush (*Atriplex gardneri*), Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), and horsebrush (*Tetradymia sp.*). The understory is typically comprised of galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) and a small variety of forbs including evening primrose (*Oenothera sp.*), false yarrow (*Chaenactis douglasii*), and annual buckwheat (*Eriogonum annuum*) (Goodrich and Neese 1986; USGS 2004; USDA 2012).

3.2. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

All migratory birds and their nests are protected from take or disturbance under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C., 703 et seq.). These protection laws were implemented for the protection of avian species. Unless permitted by regulations, it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any species covered under these Acts. In addition, Executive Order 13186 sets forth the responsibilities of federal agencies to further implement the provisions of these Acts by integrating bird conservation principles and practices into agency activities and by ensuring that federal actions evaluate the effects of actions and agency plans on protected avian species.

The BLM has reviewed district files and completed a field visit for raptor nesting and migratory bird habitat within all lands up to ½ mile of the proposed project. There are no known raptors nesting within ½ mile of the proposed project; however, burrowing owl nesting habitat occurs in all areas within the proposed project. The burrowing owl is a Utah State and BLM species of concern. In Utah, prairie dog burrows are the most important source of burrowing owl nest sites. The following addresses migratory birds that may utilize the project area for nesting or foraging activities, including those species classified as Priority Species by Utah Partners-in-Flight. Utah Partners-in-Flight is a cooperative partnership among federal, state, and local government agencies as well as public organizations and individuals organized to emphasize the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives.

Desert/Shrub Areas: American robin, American white pelican, bald eagle, blue-gray gnatcatcher, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, black-chinned hummingbird, black-throated sparrow, bobolink, Brewer's blackbird, Brewer's sparrow, broad-tailed hummingbird, common raven, mountain bluebird, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, short-eared owl, song sparrow, western burrowing owl, and western kingbird.

3.3. Wildlife:Non-USFWS Designated

The BLM has reviewed district files and completed a field visit for wildlife species. In summary, the entire project area is located within white-tailed prairie dog (burrowing owl nesting habitat) habitat.

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

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This chapter describes the direct and indirect impacts that would be expected to occur upon the implementation of the considered alternative. It also discloses the expected cumulative impacts, which are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

4.1. Proposed Action

4.1.1. Soils & Vegetation

Soils

The Proposed Action would disturb up to 27.618 acres of native soils. All disturbed areas that do not need to remain cleared for maintenance or safety purposes would be subject to interim reclamation following completion of construction/installation. If interim reclamation is successful, direct long-term impacts to vegetation would occur only in those areas that remain clear throughout the life of the power-line. If interim reclamation is not successful, the entire 27.618 acres could remain disturbed for the long term.

Direct impacts to these desert soils are primarily associated with the clearing of vegetation during construction, and the blading of the surface environment. In addition, loss of soil/topsoil in disturbed areas would reduce the re-vegetation success of seeded native species due to increased competition by annual weed species, which decrease the soil health by destroying the nutrient balance. Annual weed species are adapted to disturbed conditions, and have less stringent moisture and soil nutrient requirements than do perennial native species.

Indirect impacts to soil resources include the invasion and establishment of introduced, undesired plant species, which affects nutrient cycling, the increase loss of soil due to low soil stability from poor soil amendment use or poor topsoil management. The severity of the invasive spread would depend on the success of reclamation and re-vegetation, and the degree and success of noxious weed control efforts. The severity of soil losses would also be affected by the lack of vegetation, the loss of soil holding capabilities, lack of soil crust, and an increase in drought conditions. Impacts to native soils would be partially mitigated by reclamation of disturbed areas with desired native vegetation, the use of some soil amendments, and the control of noxious and invasive weeds by mechanical and chemical treatment.

Mitigation Measures: Moon Lake shall reclaim the area disturbed according to Green River District Reclamation Guidelines. This involves at a minimum re-contouring any disturbed area back to original contours, salvaging of topsoil to be used for restoration efforts, seed bed prep work, use of soil amendments, seeding with an approved seed mix emphasizing the use of native plants. Seed mix for the area should work within a Desert Shallow loam environment and be able to work within a low average precipitation area. Invasive and Noxious weed control shall also be accomplished by Moon Lake to keep these invasives from inundating the proposed project area and to increase the chance for reclamation success. The overall goal is to obtain 75% basal based on similar undisturbed adjacent native vegetative community, and comprised of desired species and/or seeded species within 5 years of initial reclamation action as stated in the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines.

Vegetation

The Proposed Action would disturb up to 27.618 acres of native vegetation. All disturbed areas that do not need to remain cleared for maintenance or safety purposes would be subject to interim reclamation following completion of construction/installation. If interim reclamation is successful, direct long-term impacts to vegetation would occur only in those areas that remain clear throughout the life of the power-line. If interim reclamation is not successful, up to the entire 27.618 acres could remain disturbed for the long term.

Direct impacts to vegetation are primarily associated with clearing of vegetation during construction. In addition, loss of soil/topsoil in disturbed areas would reduce the revegetation success of seeded native species due to increased competition by annual weed species. Annual weed species are adapted to disturbed conditions, and have less stringent moisture and soil nutrient requirements than do perennial native species.

Indirect impacts to vegetation resources include the invasion and establishment of introduced, undesired plant species. The severity of these invasions would depend on the success of reclamation and revegetation, and the degree and success of noxious weed control efforts. Impacts to vegetation would be partially mitigated by reclamation of disturbed areas with desired native vegetation and the control of noxious and invasive weeds by mechanical and chemical treatment.

4.1.2. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

As identified in Chapter 3, the project area contains burrowing owl nesting habitat throughout the project area. Potential effects of the Proposed Action Alternative on avian species include 1) direct loss or degradation of nesting and foraging habitats, 2) indirect disturbance from human activity (including harassment, displacement, and noise), and 3) increased direct impacts (collisions with vehicles). By following the mitigation measure outlined below these impacts would be minimized or completely negated.

Project activities are anticipated to disturb approximately 13.8 acres of migratory bird foraging and nesting habitat. Given the abundance of foraging habitat in the surrounding area, habitat losses are not expected to reduce raptor prey bases to levels where “take” would occur. Impacts to migratory birds within the proposed project area would also be dependent upon the time when project activities would occur. If these activities occur in the late fall, most of the species would have left the area during winter migration. If construction activities were to occur during the spring or summer months it could cause birds to move into other adjacent habitats or into habitats where interspecific and intraspecific competition between species may increase. Surface and noise disturbance associated with project activities would be considered temporary and is anticipated to occur during typical working hours; however, by following the mitigation measures for burrowing owl outlined below impacts to migratory birds would be minimized or completely negated.

In addition Moon Lake Electric Association has developed bird-friendly construction standards as submitted to the BLM VFO *‘Avian Protection Plan, (2011)’* (APP). The APP as implemented will further minimize impacts to raptor species. The APP is in compliance with APLIC’s Suggested Practices (2006) as identified by the VRMP (2008).

4.1.2.1. Mitigation Measures:

Project activities are not allowed from March 1 – August 31 to minimize impacts during burrowing owl nesting season. This stipulation applies to the entire project area.

4.1.3. Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated

Under the Proposed Action Alternative surface disturbing activities would result in the loss of approximately 13.8 acres of white-tailed prairie dog habitat. In addition, to habitat loss, accidental mortality of white-tailed prairie dogs is anticipated to increase by increasing vehicle traffic. As project related activities increase, adjacent habitats may be avoided due to human presence. Habitat quality for this species can also be degraded by the introduction of noxious and invasive weeds. Weed invasions may lead to a decrease in the amount of native perennials and bare ground, thereby degrading habitat for prairie dogs by decreasing visibility, forage quality, and burrow development.

4.2. No Action

4.2.1. Soils & Vegetation

Soils

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to soils from surface-disturbing activities associated with this power-line installation. Current land use trends in the area would continue, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use for hunting, bird watching, and sightseeing.

Vegetation

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to vegetation from surface-disturbing activities associated with this power-line installation. Current land use trends in the area would continue, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use for hunting, bird watching, and sightseeing.

4.2.3. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct or indirect effects to fish and wildlife species. Current land use trends in the area would continue of which would mainly include increased oil and gas development activities.

4.2.4. Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct or indirect effects to fish and wildlife species. Current land use trends in the area would continue of which would mainly include increased oil and gas development activities.

4.3. Cumulative Impacts

4.3.1. Soils & Vegetation

Soils

The cumulative impacts analysis area (CIAA) will be defined as the boundary of the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS (BLM 2005) project area which is located in the Monument Butte/Myton Bench Oil and Gas Field in Duchesne, Utah.

The boundary of the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS contains approximately 64,000 acres. The current past, present, and foreseeable activity for the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS project area is 778 oil and gas wells. Assuming 2.5 acres of disturbance for well pad and pit and 1.0 acre of disturbance for pipelines, per well, the past, present, and future total area of disturbance due to oil and gas activity for the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS is approximately 2,723 acres.

Each acre of disturbance adds to a cumulative effect by increasing erosion and destroying native vegetation, and through the invasion of undesired plant species. In general, soils in the Uinta Basin are very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim because of the arid climate and lack of organic material, and any disturbance no matter the amount affects the ecosystem as a whole.

Direct surface disturbances to soils indicated by past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments are primarily attributable to oil and gas development and vegetation management by various federal agencies. Oil and gas development, however, would continue to degrade local habitat by direct disturbance and slow reclamation of disturbed areas. Surface disturbance within the CIAA would be approximately 2,723 acres. The Proposed Action would add approximately 27.618 acres of surface disturbance. The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

Vegetation

The cumulative impacts analysis area (CIAA) will be defined as the boundary of the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS (BLM 2005) project area which is located in the Monument Butte/Myton Bench Oil and Gas Field in Duchesne, Utah.

The boundary of the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS contains approximately 64,000 acres. The current past, present, and foreseeable activity for the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS project area is 778 oil and gas wells. Assuming 2.5 acres of disturbance for well pad and pit and 1.0 acre of disturbance for pipelines, per well, the past, present, and future total area of disturbance due to oil and gas activity for the Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project EIS is approximately 2,723 acres.

Each acre of disturbance adds to a cumulative effect by increasing erosion and destroying native vegetation, and through the invasion of undesired plant species. In general, soils in the Uinta Basin are very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim because of the arid climate and lack of organic material.

Direct surface disturbances to vegetation indicated by past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments are primarily attributable to oil and gas development and vegetation management by various federal agencies. Oil and gas development, however, would continue to degrade

local habitat by direct disturbance and slow reclamation of disturbed areas. Surface disturbance within the CIAA would be approximately 2,723 acres. The Proposed Action would add approximately 27.618 acres of surface disturbance. The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

4.3.2. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

The cumulative impact analysis area for migratory birds is defined as the Upper Parriette Draw Hydrologic Unit Boundary consisting of approximately 100,548 acres. This hydrologic unit boundary was chosen for cumulative impact analysis as this best represents a soil and vegetation habitat type avian species found within the project area would utilize in whole. Future actions of the Proposed Action could increase human presence in the area continuing to fragment and manipulate the surrounding habitats by increasing the presence of non-native invasive plant species. Further introduction of non-native invasive plant species could have significant adverse impacts on migratory birds that are dependent upon prevalent species for their survival. In general such an environmental shift would probably have negative impacts on wildlife species and would favor non-native and readily adaptive species.

Impacts to migratory birds in the cumulative impact analysis area would be dependent upon the season of project activities. Any activities completed in the late fall would less likely have a direct impact to avian species because many of the species would have left for winter grounds. The timing stipulation associated with the proposed project will further limit disturbance to avian species within the area. In addition to displacement caused by project activities the Proposed Action Alternative would also result in the temporary removal of up to approximately 13.8 acres of potential nesting and foraging habitat for migratory birds. However, successful reclamation efforts would return disturbed habitats to pre-disturbance levels and loss of vegetation would be a temporary impact to migratory bird habitat. The No Action Alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

In addition Moon Lake Electric Association has developed bird-friendly construction standards as submitted to the BLM VFO *'Avian Protection Plan, (2011)'* (APP). The APP as implemented will further minimize impacts to raptor species. The APP is in compliance with APLIC's Suggested Practices (2006) as identified by the VRMP (2008).

4.3.3. Wildlife: None-USFWS Designated

The cumulative impact analysis area for white-tailed prairie dogs is specific to the active prairie dog complex surrounding the project area. The prairie dog complex is approximately 1,960 acres. Under the Proposed Action Alternative the project is expected to disturb .001% of the known complex. Future actions of the Proposed Action could increase human presence in the area continuing to fragment and manipulate the surrounding habitats by increasing the presence of non-native invasive plant species. Further introduction of non-native invasive plant species could have significant adverse impacts on prairie dogs that are dependent upon prevalent species for their survival. In general such an environmental shift would probably have negative impacts on prairie dogs and would favor non-native and readily adaptive species. Construction and operation of facilities associated with the Proposed Action would increase both traffic and visitation to the proposed project area. In addition to direct human-caused disturbance, prairie dogs could also be affected through exposure to spills or other sources of petroleum products. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative could also alter potential prairie dogs habitat, making it less suitable

for the establishment of colonies. As traffic volumes and project-related activities increase, adjacent habitats may be avoided due to human presence, noise, and the potential influx of invasive weeds. However, successful reclamation efforts would minimize the spread of noxious and invasive weeds and would return disturbed habitats to pre-disturbance levels.

Past, present, and future land uses have reduced and will likely continue to reduce the quality and quantity of habitats for wildlife species. Habitat alteration occurring throughout the range of these species would potentially reduce the ability of such species to recover. Cumulative impacts include habitat fragmentation, loss of prey species, increased predation, and loss of breeding habitat.

The No Action Alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

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Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Tribal Consult	Consulted on as required by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 1531)	Tribal consultation was conducted under Monumemt Butte EIS in 2009. No Traditional Cultural Properties (TPCs) are identified within the APEs. The proposed projects will not hinder access to or use of Native American Religious Sites
SHPO	Consulted on as required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) (16 U.S.C. 470)	Consultation letter was sent to the State Historic preservation Officer (SHPO) on Octoberr 1, 2014 recommending a “no historic properties effected” determination. We received their concurrence to our determination on October 9, 2014.

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Chapter 6. List of Preparers

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Table 6.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Margo Roberts	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty
Christine Cimiluca	NRS/Acting Botanist	Vegetation
James E. Hereford II	NRS-Reclamation	Soils
Elizabeth Gamber	Paleontologist	Paleo, Geology, Ground Water
Craig Newman	Range Management Spec.	Grazing
Erin Goslin	Archeologist	Cultural / Native American Religious Concerns
Brandon McDonald	Wildlife Biologist	Fish and Wildlife

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Chapter 7. References

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REFERENCES

BLM. 2005. Castle Peak and Eight Mile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, Newfield Rocky Mountains, Inc. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal District Office.

Goodrich, S., and E. Neese. 1986. Uinta Basin Flora. USDA Forest Service - Intermountain Region-Ogden, Utah 1986 in cooperation with USFS- Ashley National Forest & USDOI BLM - Vernal District. 320pp.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2012. Plants Database, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Online data retrieved from http://plants.usda.gov/java/, March 2012.

NRCS, 2014. Soil Survey Information. Uintah Area, Utah – Part of Daggett, Grand and Uintah Counties. Information on Desert Shallow loam soil types.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 2004. Provisional Digital Land Cover Map for the Southwestern United States, Southwest Regional GAP Analysis Project GIS Files, Utah State, University, Logan, Utah. Online data retrieved from http://earth.gis.usu.edu/swgap/landcover.html, May, 2008.

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Chapter 8. Acronyms

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AO Authorized Officer

BLM Bureau of Land Management

DR Decision Record

EA Environmental Assessment

EIS Environmental Impact Statement

ENBB Environmental Notification Bulletin Board

FLPMA Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

FONSI Finding of No Significant Impact

ID Interdisciplinary

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

RFA Reasonably Foreseeable Action

RMP Resource Management Plan

ROD Record of Decision

ROW Right-of-Way

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Appendix A. Interdisciplinary Checklist

Project Title Overhead Power Line for Newfield Production Companies Boundary Injection Facility

NEPA Log Number:DOI—BLM—UT—G010–2015–0017–EA

File/Serial Number:UTU-90712

Project Leader: Margo Roberts

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions will occur from vehicles in the project area, but those impacts will be short term & transitory so they will not be detectable by monitors or models. No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Stephanie Howard	10/9/2014
NP	BLM Natural Areas	The proposed project does not fall within the boundaries of a BLM Natural Area as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.16(y) this project is considered to be an undertaking. The area of potential effect (APE) is defined as the polygon presented in the right-of-way application. Transcon Environmental, Inc. conducted a Class III 100% pedestrian inventory over the project area. One eligible archaeological site, was identified within the project area; however, this site will be avoided by the undertaking and associated with the Plan of Development. A consultation letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on October 1, 2014 recommending a "no historic properties effected" determination. We received their concurrence to our determination on October 9, 2014.	Erin Goslin	12/15/2014
NI	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	Tribal consultation was conducted under Monument Butte EIS in 2009. No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) are identified within the APEs. The proposed projects will not hinder access to or use of Native American religious sites.	Erin Goslin	12/11/2014
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed project does not fall within the boundaries of the ACEC in Section 29, and Section 30, per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS data base layers. The proposed project is N1/2N1/2 of sections 29 and 30.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	The proposed project is not in a Wild and Scenic Rivers area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	No Wilderness areas have been designated by the U.S. Congress on BLM lands in the VFO. The proposed project is not in a Wilderness/WSA area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NI	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the proposed action or alternatives because the proposed project is not on tribal trust lands or near tribal communities.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Farmlands (prime/unique)	All prime farmlands in Uintah County are irrigated. All unique farmlands in Uintah County are orchards. No irrigated lands or orchards are located in the project area; therefore this resource will not be carried forward for analysis. No soil surveys have been completed by the NRCS for Duchesne County, so no prime or unique farmlands have been designated. No soil surveys have been completed by the NRCS for Daggett County, so no prime or unique farmlands have been designated.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	No Fuels/fire management projects or needs present per VFO GIS data base.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NI	Geology/Minerals/ Energy Production	Installation of power poles will be helpful for the production of energy. Geology and minerals will not be impacted.	Betty Gamber	10/27/2014
IP/NW: NI Soils: PI Veg.: PI	Invasive Plants/ Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	IP/NW: Invasive plants and noxious weeds are present in and near the Project Area, including the Utah Class B noxious weed Russian knapweed and the Class C noxious weed saltcedar, per BLM GIS data review and 2014 project area plant surveys. A weed management plan included with the site specific reclamation plan would be required. This would outline the applicant's plan for weed management, control and removal. If pesticides are to be used the applicant must obtain a PUP from the BLM Authorized Officer. If weed management plan is followed, then an increase in weeds in the Project Area is not anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. Soils: The proposed project will disturb approximately 27 acres of desert shallow loam soils in Sections 25, 29, and 30 of T8S R16E, and T8S R17E. In general, soils in the Uinta Basin are very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim because of the arid climate and lack of organic material, and any disturbance no matter the amount affects the ecosystem as a whole. Vegetation: The Proposed Action could result in the removal of up to 27.618 acres of native vegetation from	IP/NW: Christine Cimiluca Soils: James E. Hereford II Vegetation: Christine Cimiluca	IP/NW:10/ 20/2014 11/10/2014 Veg.: 10/20/ 2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		the permanent right-of way and the temporary construction easement per review of Proposed Action alternative.		
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area, which allows for oil and gas development with associated road and pipeline right-of-ways. Current land uses, within the area identified in the proposed action and adjacent lands, consist of existing oil and gas development, wildlife habitat, recreational use, and sheep and cattle ranching. No existing land uses would be changed or modified by the implementation of the proposed action. Master Title Plats have been reviewed for conflicts with Public Water Reserves. There are no Public Water Reserves Identified in the project area per the Master Title Plats. The proposed project is adjacent to Duchesne County Class D Roads (Pariette Road and Raptor Road) as per the Vernal Field Office GIS Database Layers. All permits required from Duchesne county will be obtained before construction begins.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	The proposed project is not located within an identified Land(s) with Wilderness Characteristics' (LWC) area, as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	Livestock Grazing: The proposed project is located within the 8 Mile Flat cattle grazing allotment. The allotment is seasonally permitted from November 1 to April 15 with up to 760 AUMs. This area has many existing well sites and the newly proposed power transmission lines will have little effects on the livestock grazing as the area is bisected by numerous roads and other oil and gas projects. Very little disturbance would occur other than increasing the traffic on the already existing road The proposal is consistent with multiple use of public lands and other oil & gas activities in the area. It is not anticipated that this proposal would negatively impact grazing operations. There are no known range improvements in this allotment that would be impacted by this proposal.	Craig Newman	11/5/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		This proposal is not expected to affect Rangeland Health Standards in this allotment.		
NP	Paleontology	No paleo localities are present on the GIS paleo layer.	Elizabeth Gamber	10/27/2014
NI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	Rationale: The following UT BLM Sensitive plant species are present or expected in the same or an adjacent subwatershed as the proposed project: *Yucca sterilis.* ● Sandy soils in the vicinity of the proposed project may provide suitable habitat for *Yucca sterilis*. However, no populations are present, per special status plant species surveys completed for this project, and BLM GIS data review. Given the exclusively clonal nature of the species, the potential for future establishment is negligible.	Christine Cimiluca	10/20/2014
NI	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	Rationale: The following Federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species is present or expected in the same or an adjacent subwatershed as the proposed project: Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*) and Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*). The project location is less than 0.5 mile outside the 2013 USFWS potential habitat polygon for the two cactus species, per BLM GIS data review. Surveys for these two threatened cactus species were conducted along the proposed power-line route in September 2014. No individuals or populations of cactus were documented during the surveys. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to impact the two cactus species.	Christine Cimiluca	10/20/2014
NP	Plants: Wetland/Riparian	The project is not located within a wetlands/riparian zone per the as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NP	Recreation	The project is not located within a recreation managed area per the Vernal Field Office GIS data layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NI	Socio-Economics	No impact to the social or economic status of the county or nearby communities would occur from this project due to its small size in relation to ongoing development throughout the basin.	Margo Roberts	10/09/2014
NI	Visual Resources	Proposed project is located within a VRM Class IV area, per VFO GIS data base. *The action would be allowed under class IV objectives.*	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014
NP	Water: Floodplains	There are no HUD inventoried floodplains on the proposed project area as per GIS review and on the ground observations. Care should still take place to reduce surface impacts where ever possible.	James Hereford III	11/10/2014
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	Groundwater will not be negatively impacted by the installation of power poles. It is unlikely the power poles will reach to the depth of the groundwater.	Elizabeth Gamber	10/27/2014
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The proposed action takes place in an area that is inundated by dry ephemeral washes and can exhibit flash flood conditions depending on precipitation amounts. The area drains into the Lower Green River, which feeds into the Colorado River. Although current hydrological conditions exist the current proposed action will not alter or affect the current hydrological conditions that would require detailed analysis.	James E. Hereford II	11/10/2014
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	The closest perennial water to the proposed project area is the Pariette Draw. This is usually dry most of the year, but added irrigation in the upper reaches keep water in the channel most of the year. The proposed project is not directly in the channel area and will not affect surface water quality to a degree that would require detailed analysis because the proposed 27 acres of total disturbance will be temporary. Reclamation practices and storm water control practices will help reduce sediments from the project area, reaching the Pariette Draw.	James E. Hereford II	11/10/2014
NP	Water: Waters of the U.S.	No waters of the U.S. exist on the proposed project area as per GIS review and on the ground observations. Care should still take place by the company to help reduce surface impacts that could occur.	James E. Hereford II	11/10/2014
NP	Wild Horses	No herd areas or herd management areas are present within the proposed project area as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
PI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	The project area is within burrowing owl nesting habitat throughout the entire project area. There are no known raptor nests within 0.5 miles of the project area. In addition, Moon Lake Electric Association has developed bird-friendly construction standards as submitted to the BLM VFO *'Avian Protection Plan, (2011)'* (APP). The APP as implemented will further minimize impacts to raptor species. The APP is in compliance with APLIC's Suggested Practices (2006) as identified by the VRMP (2008)	Brandon McDonald	10/30/14
PI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	The project area is not within crucial big game habitat; however, the entire project is within an active white-tailed prairie dog colony.	Brandon McDonald	10/30/14
NP	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	In review of district files and a site visit there are no threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate animal species (including their designated habitats) within or near the proposed project area.	Brandon McDonald	10/30/14
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	The proposed project is not within a woodlands/forestry area as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	10/9/2014

FINAL REVIEW:			
Reviewer Title	**Signature**	**Date**	**Comments**
Environmental Coordinator	/s/ Jessica Taylor	12/9/14	
Authorized Officer	/s/ Jerry Kenczka	12/17/2014	

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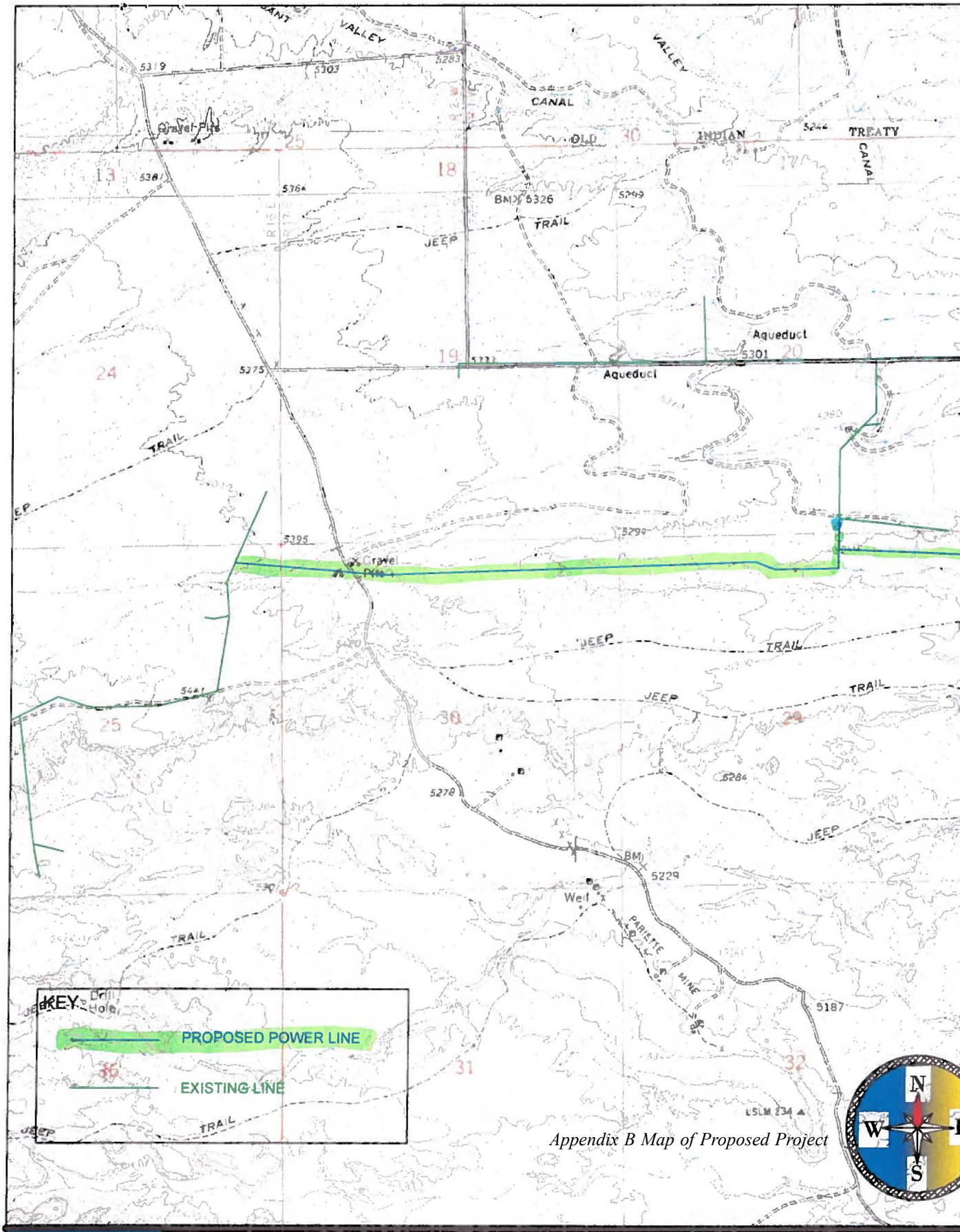
Appendix B. Map of Proposed Project



Appendix B Map of Proposed Project

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Appendix C. PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

Purpose and Need for the Facility

Moon Lake Electric Association (MLEA) proposes to construct a new overhead power line on BLM. The proposed power line will be constructed to serve the needs of Newfield Production Company's Boundary Injection Fence. This proposed power line will be a distribution line, with an operating voltage of 14.4/24.5 kV. Guy Wires will be installed as per the attached spec sheet.

Right of Way Location

The proposed power line will be built in the following legal description:

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 8 S., R. 16 E.,

sec. 25, NE¼NE¼.

T. 8 S., R. 17 E.,

sec. 29, N½N½;

sec. 30, Lot 1,2,3, N½NE¼.

The total length of the power line will be approximately 12,030.81 feet, a 50-foot wide permanent easement, and a 50 foot wide temporary construction easement is being requested. The 50 foot temp ROW is needed to accommodate the equipment necessary in order to construct the power line

This proposed right of way will encompass approximately 13.809 Acres. The total disturbance for the proposed project is 27.618 acres more or less.

Facility Design Factors

This power line will meet the National Electrical Safety Code. All requirements with respect to clearance, temperature fluctuations, wind, voltage, span length, and structure heights are incorporated into all MLEA power line designs.

All MLEA power lines are designed with adequate clearances for Raptor protection. All materials used for MLEA power lines meets, or exceed industry standards.

Additional Components

This area of the county is in MLEA service territory. MLEA owns and maintains thousands of miles of power lines throughout its service territory. These lines are on Private, State, BLM, and Tribal Lands. Additional power lines may be required in the future.

Government Agencies Involved

The BLM is the only government entity with property involved in this power line extension.

Construction Facilities

Construction will begin within 45 days of BLM approval and will take 20 to 30 days to complete. We anticipate placing 39 poles and 23 anchors on BLM. The poles extend 35 to 40 feet out of the ground.

The construction crew will consist of 4 men to 8 men using bucket trucks, digger trucks, and smaller crew trucks, as well as a backhoe.

Right of Way flagging or engineering crews will consist of 1 to 4 men using a pickup truck(s), as well as foot travel. It is anticipated that minimal clearing, grading or blade work will be needed for crews to access and construct this power line within the granted right-of-way; with exception of the holes drilled for pole and anchor installation.

Construction travel will be confined to existing roads and the requested right-of-way.

Safety is very important to MLEA. Any holes which may need to be left open overnight, will be covered with planks to protect people and wildlife from injury.

No toxic substances are used in the construction of any MLEA power lines. All construction waste will be hauled back and disposed of in MLEA owned dumpsters.

Name and Telephone Number of Contact Personnel

The appropriate person to contact about the proposed right-of-way is Mary Stewart, Right-of-Way Agent for MLEA. She can be reached at 435.722.5418 Work or 435.823.5962 Cell or mastewart@mleainc.com

Resource Values and Environmental Concerns

Monitoring: Per Moon Lake Electric 12/15/2014

No surface disturbance will occur within ¼ mile East of the Pariette Road without a qualified Archaeological Monitor present. MLEA is requesting to use BLM's Archeologist to monitor the pole construction and the line installation in this area.

MLEA will contact the BLM Archeologist 48 hours before construction begins (in the sensitive area) with the construction dates for monitoring. This identified area will have restricted work areas. The overhead power line is to be hand pulled, with no vehicle traffic through the site, to reduce further potential impacts.

MLEA crews will construct the two (2) power poles in the sensitive area using a digger truck w/auger to dig the hole & if needed a backhoe to dig the holes. Both the digger truck & backhoe will use the existing road to the south of the sensitive area as an access road. MLEA crews will also lift the conductor wires onto the newly constructed poles instead of dragging the wire across the ground so there will be the least amount of ground disturbance in the sensitive area.

All surface disturbances will be kept to a minimum and confined to the right-of-way. Rubber tired vehicles will be used for all construction. It is anticipated that MLEA's surface disturbance will be minimal. MLEA's surface disturbances usually are nothing more than a two track, which is periodically to maintain and patrol the power line as needed. MLEA will keep all vehicle travel to existing roads and within the granted right-of-way.

The visual impacts will be minimal. Wood poles and non-reflective conductors

will be used in the construction of this project. Vegetation for this project consists mainly of sage brush, cactus, desert plants.

Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Wet Soil Conditions

Construction and Maintenance activities will not be performed when soil conditions are too wet to adequately support vehicles and equipment, except in emergency situations. If equipment creates ruts, in excess of three (3) inches deep, all maintenance work will be postponed, if possible, until conditions are suitable for travel. If maintenance is required for immediate repair of the power line, MLEA will be responsible for the rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

Weed Control

MLEA will control any noxious weeds that appear in their right-of-way, as a result of MLEA's construction activities. All weed control will be done upon written request from the BLM office. Any weed control that is required, will be completed according to the BLM specified methodology. If Herbicides are to be used, MLEA will submit, in

a timely manner, a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP)), according to the form. The PUP form shall be sent to MLEA, upon the request from the BLM, for any weed control.

Access

All access will be from existing roads and two tracks and along the granted rights-of-way.

Reclamation

Re-seeding

MLEA will re-seed any area's that are cleared as a result of MLEA construction activities. All re-seeding efforts will follow BLM's Green River District's March 2009 Reclamation Guidelines. MLEA will use BLM standard drilling or broadcasting techniques for any and all re-seeding. Re-seeding techniques will be determined at the time of the BLM's request for any and all reseeding.

MLEA will apply the BLM's recommendation of certified seed, at their application rates, for any re-seeding that is needed for this project. Any and all re-seeding will be done between August 15th and November 30th.

Maintenance

MLEA will keep the power lines in a safe and usable condition at all times in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code.

No toxic substances are used in the construction of any of MLEA power lines. All construction waste will be hauled back and disposed of in MLEA owned dumpsters.

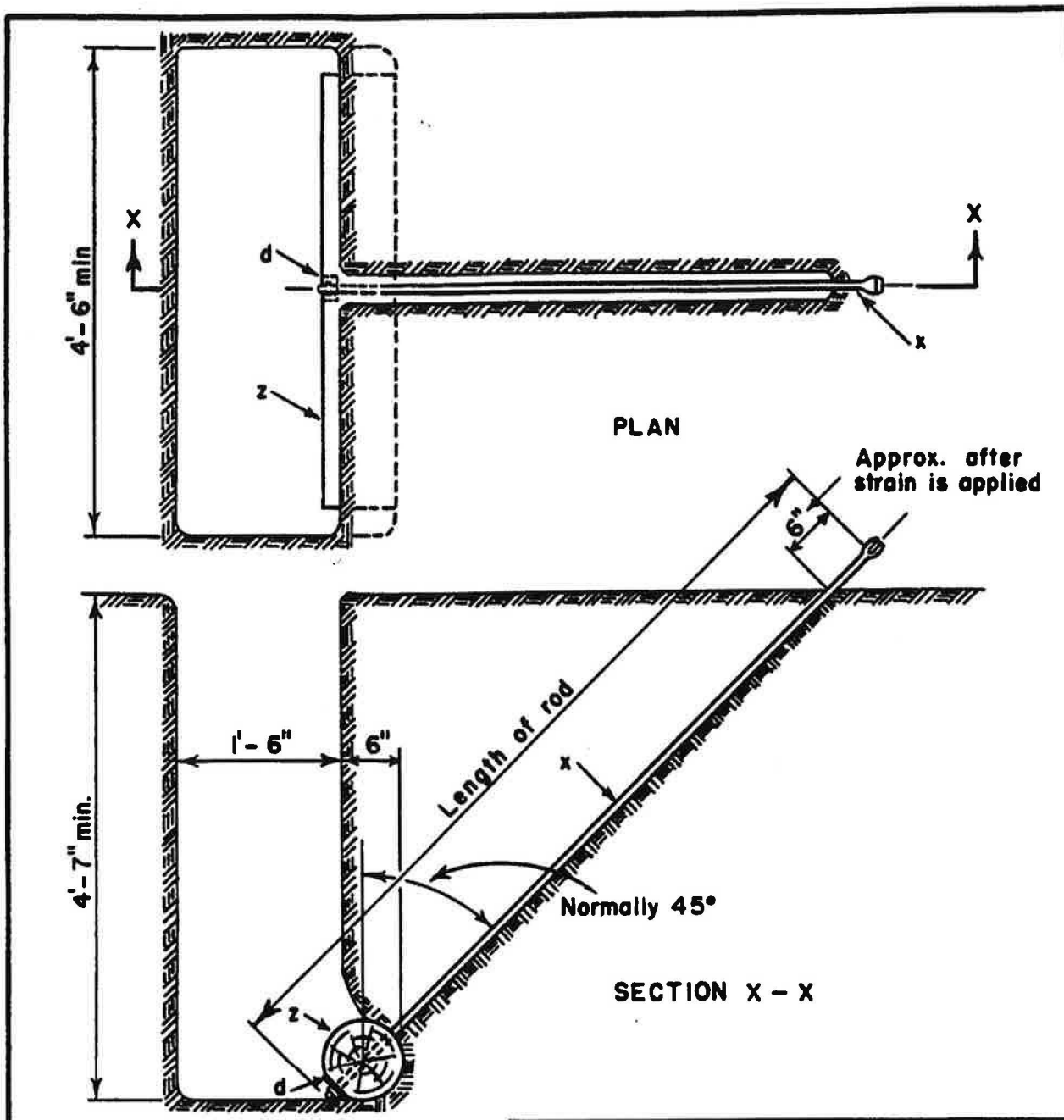
It is anticipated that this power line will be inspected on a semi-annual basis, with maintenance to be completed as needed. All inspections will be completed from MLEA owned vehicles and completed by authorized MLEA personnel. MLEA will do everything within reason and within its power to prevent fires on or near the construction area during the construction of this power

line, as well as throughout the term of the right-of-way. Each vehicle used on the job site will be equipped with a radio and fire extinguisher. All litter will be taken off the job site.

Termination and Restoration

If the use of the power line is discontinued for a period of one year or longer and is no longer needed in the foreseeable future; MLEA will remove it at their expense and will restore the right-of-way, as much as possible to its original condition.

Log Anchor Diagraham



		ASSEMBLY UNIT							
		F2-1		F2-2		F2-3		F2-4	
ITEM	MATERIAL	NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE
d	Washer, 13/16" hole, (1 1/8" min. for F2-4)	1	4"x 4"x1/2"	1	4"x 4"x1/2"	1	4"x 4"x1/2"	1	4"x4"x1/2
x	Rod, anchor, thimble type eye	1	5/8"x 7'-0"	1	3/4"x8'-0"	1	3/4"x8'-0"	1	1"x9'-0"
z	Anchor, (creosoted log)	1	8"dia.x4'-0"	1	9"dia.x4'-6"	1	10"dia.x5'-0"	1	12"dia.x5'-
	Designated maximum holding power in ordinary soil		8000#		10,000#		12,000#		16,000#

Appendix C PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

LOG ANCHOR ASSEMBLY

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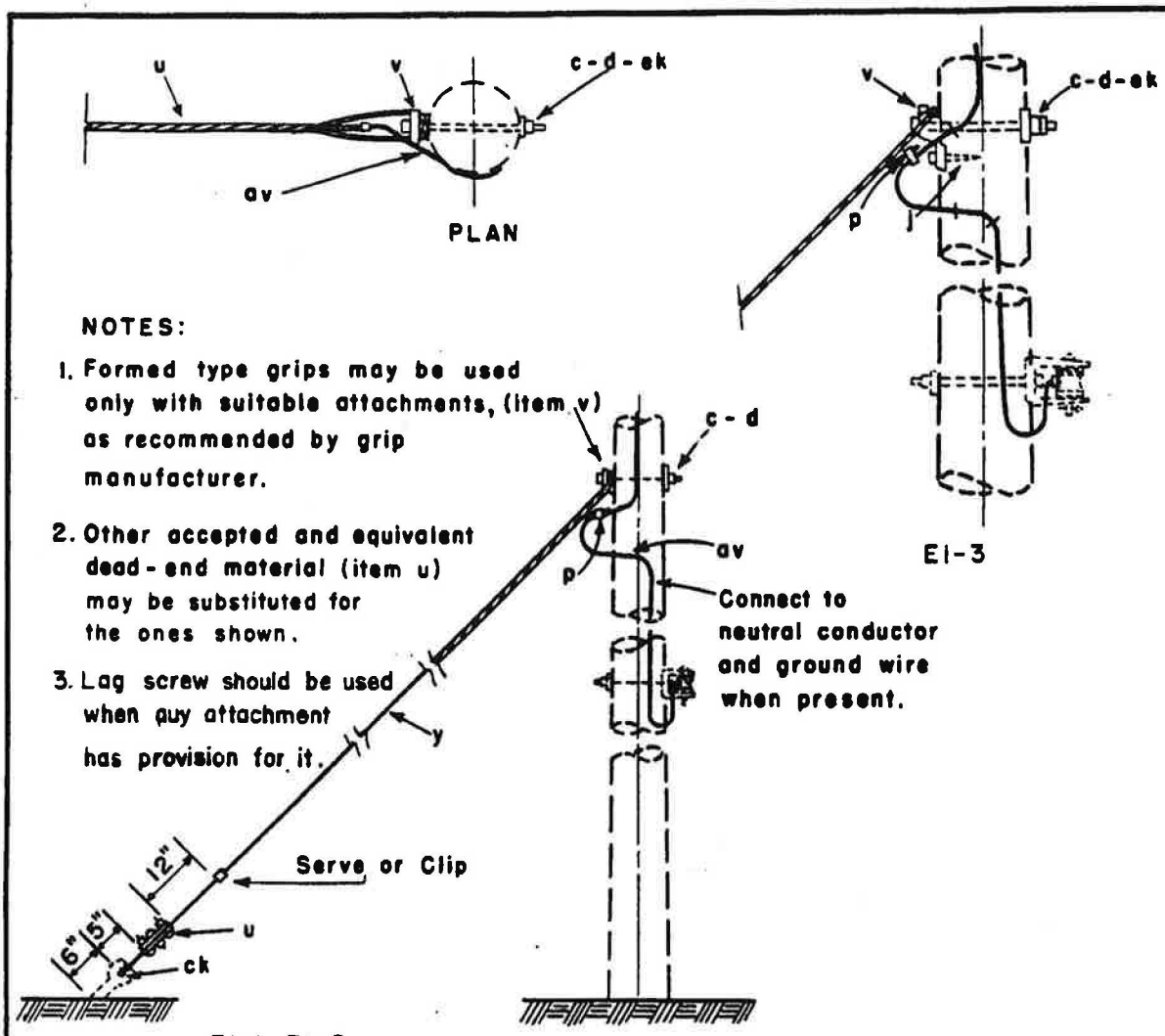
F2-1 TO F2-4



See guide drawings M30-1 and M30-2

ITEM	MATERIAL	ASSEMBLY UNIT E1-1 No. REQ'D.	E1-2 No. REQ'D.	E1-3 No. REQ'D.
c	Bolt, machine, 5/8"x required length	1	1	1
d	Washer, curved	1-2 1/4"x2 1/4"	1-3"x3"	1-4"x4"
j	Screw, lag, 1/2" x 4"			1
p	Connectors	as req'd	as req'd	as req'd
u	Deadend for guy strand	2	2	2
v	Guy attachment (rating)	1-(5200 lbs.)	1-(5200 lbs.)	1-(8500 lbs.)
y	Guy wire, S.M., 7 strand req'd length by	1/4"	3/8"	7/16"
av	Jumper, No. 4 stranded Al. alloy or equiv.	req'd length	req'd length	req'd length
ck	Clamp, anchor rod bonding	1	1	1
ek	Locknuts, as required			

12.5/7.2 kV
SINGLE DOWN GUY, THROUGH BOLT TYPE

Apr., 1983

E1-1, E1-2, E1-3